

Application No. 09/611,654  
Reply dated May 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed February 26, 2004

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### 5 Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of ensuring the security of a patient's data results from a medical tests-test conducted by a third-party laboratory, the method comprising:  
providing the patient with a medical data card containing a unique patient identification number;

10 taking a specimen from the patient for conducting the medical test;  
generating a first medical test request containing the unique patient identification number using the patient's medical data card; and  
transmitting the specimen and the first medical test request to a third-party secure data provider, wherein the secure data provider that generates a second medical test request  
15 devoid of publicly accessible patient identification information using the first medical test request and, transmits the specimen and the second medical test request to a third party-the  
laboratory and, receives the results from the medical test from the laboratory, and reports the results on a test results card that can only be read in conjunction with the patient's medical data card.

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2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising reading the test results on the test results card using the patient's medical data card.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the patient's medical data card  
25 includes a memory, and further comprising the step of storing the test-results in the memory on the patient's medical data card.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the patient identification number is not readable from the patient's medical data card without a PIN, and wherein the step of  
30 generating the first medical test request includes the patient supplying the PIN.

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5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein the ~~test~~ results are not readable with the medical data card without a PIN, and wherein the step of reading the ~~test~~ results on the test results card includes the patient supplying the PIN.

- 5 6. (currently amended) A method of ensuring the security of a patient's ~~data~~ results from a medical ~~tests~~ ~~test~~ conducted for a medical provider by a ~~third party~~ laboratory, the method comprising:
- 10 issuing the patient a medical data card containing a unique patient identification number;  
receiving from the medical provider a first medical test request for a ~~medical test~~  
generated using the patient's medical data card, and a patient specimen for use in  
conducting the medical test;
- generating a second medical test request for a ~~medical test~~ using the first medical test  
request for a ~~medical test~~, the second medical test request for a ~~medical test~~ being devoid of  
publicly accessible information about the identity of the patient;
- 15 forwarding the second medical test request for a ~~medical test~~ and the specimen to a ~~third party~~ the laboratory for conducting the medical test; ~~and~~  
receiving the results of the medical test from the laboratory; and  
providing the ~~tests~~ results to the medical provider in a form that can only be read in  
conjunction with the patient's medical data card.

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7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~tests~~ ~~the~~ results are on a ~~tests~~ ~~test~~ results card in computer readable form and the method further comprises providing the medical provider with a reader adapted for reading the tests results.

- 25 8. (currently amended) A medical data card for use in a system for ensuring the security of a patient's ~~data~~ results from a medical ~~tests~~ ~~test~~ conducted for a medical provider by a ~~third party~~ laboratory, the medical data card including:
- a unique patient ID code,  
a public key encryption private key, and  
30 a public key encryption public key, and  
a data storage element, wherein the data storage element is adapted for storing data for at

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least one medical test, including for each medical test: a medical test type, a unique identification code for the medical test on the patient, and the results of the medical test.

9. (canceled)

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10. (currently amended) A test request card for use in a system for ensuring the security of a patient's data from a medical tests-test conducted for a medical provider by a ~~third-party~~ laboratory, the test request card including

10 encrypted information identifying the patient, the a medical test type, an identification of the medical provider, a unique patient identification number, and a public encryption public code.

11. (original) The test request card according to claim 10, wherein at least some of the information on the card is in bar code form.

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12. (original) The test request card according to claim 11, wherein at least some of the information on the card is in magnetic form.

13. (currently amended) A test results card for use in a system for ensuring the ~~securing security~~ of a patient's data results from a medical tests-test conducted for a medical provider by a ~~third-party~~ laboratory, the test results card including:  
encrypted information identifying the patient; and  
the results of the medical ~~tests-test~~.

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25 14. (original) The test results card according to claim 13, wherein at least some of the information on the card is in bar code form.

15. (original) The test results card according to claim 13, wherein at least some of the information on the card is in magnetic form.

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16. (currently amended) The test results card of claim 13, wherein the results of the medical test

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are encrypted.

17. (currently amended) The test results card according to claim ~~15~~16, further comprising a  
unique patient identification eednumber.

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18. (currently amended) A method of ensuring the security of a patient's data results from a  
medical teststest conducted for a medical provider by a ~~third party~~ laboratory, the method  
comprising:

issuing the patient a medical data card containing a unique patient identification number;  
10 receiving from a medical provider a first medical test request ~~for a medical test~~  
generated using the patient's medical data card, and a patient specimen for use in  
conducting the medical test;

generating a second medical test request ~~for a medical test~~ using the first medical test  
request ~~for a medical test~~, the second medical test request ~~for a medical test~~ having  
15 encrypted information identifying the patient but being devoid of publicly accessible  
information about the identity of the patient, and including a public encryption public code  
specific to the patient;

forwarding the medical test second request ~~for a medical test~~ and the specimen to a ~~third~~  
~~party the~~ laboratory for conducting the medical test, and;

20 receiving the results of the medical test from the laboratory, wherein the results are  
encrypted using the public encryption public code on the second medical test request ~~for a~~  
~~medical test~~;

identifying the patient to whom the results pertain; and

providing the encrypted test results to the ~~appropriate~~ medical provider, wherein the  
25 encrypted results ~~in the encrypted form that can only be read decrypted~~ in conjunction with  
the patient's medical data card.

19. (currently amended) A method of ensuring the security of a patient's results from a medical  
testdata from patient medical tests conducted for a ~~medical providers~~ provider by a ~~third~~  
30 ~~party laboratories~~ laboratory, comprising:

providing the patient with a medical data card issued by a secure information provider,

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having a unique patient identification number-~~(PID)~~, a public key encryption private key  
(~~Key-1~~), and a public key encryption public key-~~(Key-2)~~;

taking a specimen from the patient for conducting the medical test;

5 generating a first medical test request using the patient's medical data card, the first  
medical test request including an encrypted identification of the patient and the medical test;  
a code identifying the ~~health care~~medical provider; the patient identification number-~~(PID)~~;  
the public encryption public key; and an identification of ~~the a~~ medical test type;

forwarding the first medical test request and the specimen to the secure information  
provider;

10 generating a second medical test request including an encryption of the patient's unique  
patient identification number, but otherwise devoid of any indicia that would identify the  
patient, and an encryption code;

forwarding the second medical test request and the specimen to the ~~third-party~~  
laboratory, wherein the laboratory conducts for conducting the medical test and providing  
15 provides the results of the medical test in encrypted form using the encryption code on the  
second medical test request;

receiving the encrypted ~~test results~~;

identifying the ~~appropriate~~ medical provider from encrypted information included with  
the ~~test~~ encrypted results; and

20 forwarding the encrypted ~~test results~~ to the medical provider with an identification of the  
patient; and

decrypting the ~~test~~ encrypted results using the patient's medical data card.